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MULTILATERAL EVALUATION MECHANISM (MEM)

*Evaluation Report on Drug Policies:
Measures to Control and Counter the Illicit
Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, and
Distribution of Drugs, and to Address their
Causes and Consequences*

Argentina

Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)
Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS)

2022



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Evaluation Report on Drug Policies:

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EIGHTH EVALUATION ROUND

2022

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PREFACE

The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), established by a mandate from the Second Summit of the Americas (Santiago, Chile - 1998), is a unique multilateral evaluation tool designed to measure the progress made and challenges faced by the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) in implementing the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs of the OAS Hemispheric Drug Strategy, currently in force.

The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS) is the OAS specialized agency in charge of implementing this Mechanism.

The current MEM round is based on the objectives of the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2021-2025 of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy 2020 and their respective priority actions. These documents take into account the recommendations of the outcome document of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem (UNGASS 2016) and the United Nations 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, as well as cross-cutting issues, such as the gender perspective and human rights, cultural context, and social inclusion approaches, among others.

Seven evaluation rounds have been completed from 1998 to 2019 and, during 2020, the MEM Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG), composed of member state delegates, agreed on a new methodology for the eighth round, consisting of annual thematic evaluations with the support of independent technical consultants, as follows: 2021 – Measures for Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Support; 2022 – Measures to Control and Counter the Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, and Distribution of Drugs, and to Address their Causes and Consequences; 2023 – Institutional Strengthening; Research, Information, Monitoring, and Evaluation; International Cooperation; and 2024 – Comprehensive Evaluation based on updated information from all thematic areas.

MEM evaluations are carried out based on information provided by the member states' National Coordinating Entities (NCEs), which is analyzed by the MEM Governmental Expert Group (GEG), composed of experts designated by the countries, who do not participate in their own country's evaluation, thus ensuring the transparency and impartiality of the process. The GEG is always supported by the group of independent technical consultants and the MEM Unit. The eighth round represents a more rigorous evaluation process, in which countries are requested to provide valid means of verification to support the information submitted and ensure compliance of each priority action.

Specifically, the GEG's work for the thematic assessment for the area of “Measures to Control and Counter the Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, and Distribution of Drugs, and to Address their Causes and Consequences” was conducted during 2022 and covers the 2019 to 2022 period (unless otherwise specified). This work was adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic with

the use of technology and virtual tools, as well as taking it into consideration in the evaluation assessments.

Finally, it should be noted that one of the main purposes of MEM evaluation reports is to serve as a useful diagnostic tool to identify opportunities for improvement in drug policies and strategies, both at the national and regional levels.

OBJECTIVE

1

DEVELOP AND/OR STRENGTHEN NATIONAL- AND REGIONAL-LEVEL INTERDICTION CAPACITY, AS WELL AS THE CAPACITY TO REDUCE THE ILLICIT CULTIVATION, PRODUCTION, TRAFFICKING, AND DISTRIBUTION OF PLANT-BASED AND SYNTHETIC DRUGS THROUGH THE USE OF COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED PROGRAMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REALITIES OF EACH COUNTRY'S DOMESTIC LEGISLATION AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

Priority Action 1.1: Develop or strengthen intelligence and interdiction capabilities to detect, investigate, and dismantle laboratories or facilities used in the illicit manufacture of drugs.

Argentina implements ongoing training programs to detect, investigate, and dismantle laboratories or facilities used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, for personnel involved in interdiction operations. In this sense, the training activities organized and conducted by the Police and Security Forces to professionalize police action and keep personnel performing these tasks up to date are:

Airport Security Police

- Introduction to the Crime of Drug Trafficking from an Economic Perspective, two sessions, 40 troops per session, bimodal
- Introduction to Knowledge and Investigation of Chemical Precursors, two sessions, 20 troops per session, bimodal

Argentine National Gendarmerie

- Special Anti-drug Aptitude of National Gendarmerie, one session, 30 troops per session, in person
- Anti-drug Analyst and Tactical Investigator, one session, 40 troops per session, in person

Argentine Federal Police

- Level II Course, Update of Law 23.737 – Questions Linked to Procedures and Evidence Jurisprudence, one session, 100 troops per session, bimodal
- Practical Course for Investigation of Drug Trafficking, one session, 100 troops per session, in person
- Introductory Course to Knowledge of Drugs for Interior of Country (remote), three sessions, 50 troops per session, virtual
- Theoretical Course – Practicum for Investigation of Drug Trafficking for Interior of Country, three sessions, 130 troops per session, in person

Argentine Naval Prefecture

- Course on Drug Trafficking: Tools for On-Board Checks, three sessions, 20 troops per session (in person)

The country does not have protocols and operating procedures to detect, investigate, and dismantle clandestine laboratories or facilities for the illicit processing or manufacture of drugs.

Priority Action 1.2: Implement policies that promote gender mainstreaming in agencies and organizations in charge of drug control.

Agencies in charge of drug control in Argentina implement policies that promote gender mainstreaming. In this sense, the structure of the Ministry of Security of the Nation includes a national gender policies directorate. In addition, each of the four federal forces (Airport Security Police-ASP, Argentine Naval Prefecture-ANP, Argentine National Gendarmerie-ANG, and Argentine Federal Police-AFP) implement those policies and the Ministry of Security has actively participated in activities developed in the context of the Inter-American Program for Strengthening Gender Equality in Counterdrug Law Enforcement Agencies (GENLEA).

Priority Action 1.3: Design, implement, and strengthen programs aimed at land, riverine, maritime, and aerial interdiction.

Argentina has programs or strategies aimed at land, riverine, maritime, and aerial interdiction of drugs through monitoring, inspections, or checkpoints.

Priority Action 1.4: Review and update, as appropriate, legal frameworks related to the use of specialized investigation tools and techniques.

Argentina has Law 27.319 and Resolution 917/2017, which consider the use of specialized investigation tools and techniques to prevent and reduce drug trafficking.

Priority Action 1.5: Review and/or update mechanisms countries use to monitor the evolution of drug trafficking and related crimes, for the purpose of identifying and responding to new trends and threats.

Argentina carries out updated assessments and studies to identify new trends and threats related to drug trafficking and related crimes through the National Criminal Intelligence Directorate, which performs such tasks in the context of producing criminal intelligence, which is its main institutional function. This information is confidential due to national security questions.

Priority Action 1.6: Define and implement coordinated actions between national and regional entities to dismantle organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes.

Argentina implements actions to identify organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes. In this sense, the National Criminal Intelligence Directorate participates in the identification, compilation, and analysis of information related to criminal individuals, groups, and organizations involved in drug trafficking or other related crimes through the production of criminal intelligence understood as the part of intelligence that refers to specific criminal

activities.

Specifically, this activity is conducted through the monitoring of actions related to criminals identified primarily by police and judicial sources, in combination with a risks profiles assessment system for individuals and organization that could make criminal decisions related to assumptions of vulnerability currently detected in the control and enforcement of the law.

The country implements inter-institutional collaboration and cooperation mechanisms to coordinate activities aimed at dismantling organized crime groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes. In this sense, it has the Criminal Intelligence Subsystem made up of the Ministry of Security, through the National Criminal Intelligence Directorate, and the Argentine Federal Police, Airport Security Police, and Argentine Federal Police, the Airport Security Police, the National Gendarmerie, and the National Prefecture through their respective areas or divisions responsible for the production of criminal intelligence.

Argentina has participated in joint operations and investigations with other countries aimed at dismantling organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking and related crimes. For example, the country participated in the GAPZ operation. In addition, it has participated in previous years in crop eradication operations in neighboring countries such as the Pluractional State of Bolivia or the Republic of Paraguay.

Priority Action 1.7: Enhance the capacity of national and regional forensic laboratories or similar investigation entities to analyze and identify chemical substances, precursors, pharmaceutical products, and synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances (NPS) and facilitate information sharing with global repositories and across governmental counterparts.

Argentina has the Argentine National Gendarmerie (ANG), the Argentine Naval Prefecture (ANP), and the Argentine Federal Police (AFP), institutions reporting to the Ministry of Security who are responsible for and capable of analyzing chemical substances, precursors, pharmaceutical products, and synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances (NPS).

The country has and participates in the following ongoing training programs for personnel involved in the analysis of chemical substances, precursors, pharmaceutical products, and synthetic drugs, including NPS:

- Inter-laboratory training programs
- ISO 17025 Quality Standards Training since 2016
- Training and updating in assay validation methods
- Uninterrupted participation in the inter-laboratory exercises of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in the category of Seized Materials (SM). It also participated in 2019 and in the second round in 2021 in the category of Biological Specimens (BS)

It should be noted that this year the laboratory of the AFP was selected to participate in a pilot NPS determination test to be conducted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) during the first round. The test will consist of analyzing a sample of an unknown NPS and characterizing it using the laboratory's techniques and instruments. The Argentine National Gendarmerie ANG also participates in pilot tests. In both cases, AFP and ANG, similar substance quantification activities are also carried out in scientific cabinets in the interior of the country for the determination of samples.

Argentina has mechanisms to facilitate or share information at the national level across government counterparts, as well as with global repositories on chemical substances, precursors, pharmaceutical products, and synthetic drugs, including NPS.

Priority Action 1.8: Enhance the capacity of relevant drug control and financial regulatory competent authorities to identify and address new challenges whereby synthetic drugs and their precursors and pharmaceutical products, being illicitly sold online and shipped through land, riverine, maritime, and aerial means.

Argentina has mechanisms to investigate and disrupt drug trafficking through the Internet. In this sense, Law 24.059 on domestic security is in effect. In accordance with Article 1, it “establishes the legal, organic, and functional bases of the system for the planning, coordination, control, and support of the national police effort to ensure domestic security,” which is understood as the “de facto situation based on the law safeguarding the freedom, life, and assets of inhabitants, their rights, and guarantees and the full effect of the institutions of the representative, republican, and federal system established by the National Constitution.”

In addition, Narcotics Law 23.737 criminally defines a series of behaviors related to drug trafficking, including sowing, cultivation of seeds, chemical precursors, or any other raw material for producing or manufacturing narcotics or components intended for such purposes, as well as the production, manufacture, or preparation thereof; the marketing of narcotics, chemical precursors, or raw material for the marketing thereof; delivery, supply, application, or facilitation; importation of manufactured narcotics or narcotics in any stage of manufacture, chemical precursors, or any other raw material intended for their manufacture or production; the assumptions of the organization and financing of the activities provided for in that law.

In Argentina, the crime of drug trafficking is a federal crime, except in the provinces that have made the legislative decision to choose to assume jurisdiction over so-called “drug dealing” (narrowminded), which describes the possession of narcotics in small quantities for the purpose of delivery, distribution, and sale (Law Conf. 26.052).

The Police and Federal Security Forces act as auxiliaries of the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Judicial Branch when requested to do so and carry out, also upon judicial request, special investigative techniques (Law 27.319). In this sense, the four federal forces have specific cybercrime investigation divisions (ANG, sub-directorate on technological crimes; the AFP's

General Directorate for Combating Cybercrime; the Argentine Naval Prefecture (ANP) Directorate of Information Technology and Communication; and the Airport Security Police's (ASP) Special Cybercrime Investigation Unit (SCI).

Priority Action 1.9: Enhance coordination with private sector entities to prevent diversion of chemical substances and precursors and deny criminals access to the materials, platforms, and services of the licit supply chain, which are exploited by criminal organizations for the illicit manufacture, sale, and trafficking of drugs.

Argentina has partnerships and information exchange mechanisms with private sector entities to prevent access to materials and services exploited for illicit drug trafficking purposes. In this sense, the internal regulations of the Federal Chemical Precursors Council created under Law 27.283, as an advisory body to the authority implementing the National Chemical Precursors Registry, provides in its internal rules that, at the request of one of its members and for the purpose of dealing with a specific problem, business chambers and union organizations in sectors related to the production, distribution, and sale of chemical precursors, are summoned to participate in Council meetings.

In addition, it should be noted that the Secretariat of Integral Policies on Drugs of the Argentinean Nation (SEDRONAR) Resolution 580/2014 approved the Voluntary Code of Responsible Conduct with Respect to the Use of Chemical Precursors, emphasizing the importance of discussions between the government and the business sector, corporate social responsibility, training opportunities, and also establishing various consultation channels.

The country uses tools and resources of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) to strengthen cooperation with the private sector to prevent the diversion of chemicals. In this sense, the drafting of the Voluntary Code of Responsible Conduct with Respect to the Use of Chemical Precursors took into account the documents and tools provided by the INCB.

Priority Action 1.10: Enhance capacities for forfeiture, seizure, and management of assets, tools, or products related to illicit drug markets.

Argentina has national authorities with the appropriate budget, human and material resources, as well as ongoing training for the forfeiture, seizure, and management of assets, tools, or products related to illicit drug markets.

Competent personnel of the country receive ongoing training for the forfeiture, seizure, and management of assets, tools, or products related to illicit drug markets.

OBJECTIVE

2

STRENGTHEN NATIONAL MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES POSED BY NPS AND ILLICIT SYNTHETIC DRUGS, AND THE THREAT OF FENTANYL-RELATED SUBSTANCES, NON-MEDICAL SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS, AND ILLICIT AMPHETAMINE DERIVATIVES.

Priority Action 2.1: Establish and/or strengthen early warning systems (EWS) at the national level to promote collaboration and the exchange of information with other existing regional or international systems.

Argentina has the Argentine Early Warning System to identify and trace New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), illicit synthetic drugs, and the threat of fentanyl-related substances, non-medical synthetic opioids, illicit amphetamine derivatives, and other substances subject to international control. This information is shared with other regional and global systems.

Priority Action 2.2: Improve domestic capabilities to detect and analyze NPS by making resources and tools available for those responsible in this area.

Argentina improves its capabilities to detect and analyze NPS through updated equipment and the acquisition of new technologies. In this sense, although laboratories are well equipped with instruments which cover a wide range of the analytical spectrum, they need to be kept up to date, given that technologies change and improve, thus changing detection capability not only in terms of quantity but also in terms of the types of substances. The laboratories have:

- UV-Visible spectrophotometer: used in the general analysis of active pharmacological ingredients and some substances of abuse
- FT-Infra-Red spectrophotometer: used in the analysis of samples of varied origin (paints, powders, liquids, abused substances, etc.)
- Gas chromatograph with Flame Ionization Detector (FID): used for cocaine quantification
- Gas chromatograph with mass detector: used for analysis of samples of varied origin (narcotic material, active pharmaceutical ingredients, toxicology samples, etc.)

In addition, starting in 2021 the derivatization technique for analyzing substances using gas chromatography with mass detector was implemented, which broadens analytical capacity, primarily with respect to NPS type substances.

Priority Action 2.3: Design and implement, when appropriate, national regulatory tools to address the challenges posed by NPS and national controls on emerging illicit synthetic drugs and their precursor chemicals. 20)

Argentina has Decree 560/2019 as the regulatory framework for identifying and addressing the challenges posed by NPS and emerging illicit synthetic drugs.

Priority Action 2.4: Promote participation in the Project ION Incident Communication System (IONICS) to facilitate real-time communication of incidents involving suspicious shipments of, trafficking in, or illicit manufacture or production of NPS, including fentanyl-related substances and other non-medical synthetic opioids and amphetamine derivatives.

Argentina participates in Project ION (International Operations on New Psychotropic Substances) of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB). The institutions operating as focal points are as follows:

- Ministry of Security of the Nation
- The four federal security forces (Naval Prefecture- ANP, Airport Security Police-ASP, National Gendarmerie-ANG, and Federal Police-AFP)
- National Customs Directorate of the Federal Administration of Public Revenues
- General Directorate of the Judicial Police of the Province of Cordoba
- National Administration of Drugs, Foods, and Medical Devices (ANMAT)
- Official Mail of the Republic of Argentina

Priority Action 2.5: Develop innovative regulatory approaches, such as generic controls, analogue legislation, and temporary or emergency controls, to enhance national controls on synthetic opioids for non-medical use, and NPS, particularly when scheduling fentanyl-related substances by class.

Argentina has Decree 560/2019 as innovative legislation to control synthetic opioids for non-medical use and NPS.

OBJECTIVE
3

STRENGTHEN OR DEVELOP LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS FOR THE EFFECTIVE MONITORING AND CONTROL OF ESSENTIAL CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES AND PRECURSORS TO PREVENT DIVERSION OF THESE SUBSTANCES TO THE MANUFACTURING OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND COUNTER ITS TRAFFICKING, INCLUDING PERIODICALLY UPDATING NATIONAL LISTS OF CONTROLLED CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES.

Priority Action 3.1: Promote inter-agency coordination with industry to prevent diversion of controlled chemical substances.

Argentina has the Ministry of Security and the National Administration of Drugs, Foods, and Medical Devices (ANMAT) as national authorities responsible for developing guides, codes of conduct, and other instruments to inform the industry and users in general of controlled chemical substances.

The country has developed the following instruments and mechanisms to inform the industry and users in general about applicable controls and cooperation methods, to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances:

- Voluntary Code of Responsible Conduct with Respect to the Use of Chemical Precursors.
- Basic Manual of Chemical Precursors
- Manual of Administrative Procedures: General System of Obligations and Requirements for the Use of Chemical Precursors
- Training provided by the Directorate of Registration and Control of Chemical Precursors.
- Law 19.303

Argentina has an updated register of all individuals and corporations handling controlled chemical substances.

Argentina’s competent authorities carry out regular inspections and audits of individuals and corporations authorized to handle controlled chemical substances, as shown in the following table:

Name of the competent national authority	Does it carry out regular inspections and audits?	Is it responsible for controlling domestic trade?	Does it consider the CICAD Model Regulations?
Ministry of Security	Yes, daily	Yes	Yes
ANMAT	Yes, every 2 or 3 years.	No	No

Priority Action 3.2: Conduct analyses, including through existing mechanisms of information exchange, on substances, their analogues, and precursors, which pose a threat to public health in member states, to identify substances for expedited international control.

Argentina carries out analyses that include the exchange of information through existing international mechanisms regarding substances, their analogs, and precursors which pose a threat to public health in the member states, to identify substances for expedited international control, through IONICS, PEN On-line, the Precursors Incident Communication System (PICS), and the submission of information contained in Form-D of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB).

Priority Action 3.3: Strengthen the existing international control system to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances, pharmaceutical products, and precursors used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, as well as interdiction to counter the trafficking of chemical substances.

Argentina has the following legislation incorporating the control measures in Article 12, paragraphs 8 and 9 of the 1988 United Nations Convention to prevent diversion of controlled chemical substances toward illicit activities:

- Law 26.045
- Decree 593/2019
- MINSEG Resolution 1.122/2019
- Decree 1.490/92
- Law 19.303
- Law 17.818
- Law 16.463

Priority Action 3.4: Strengthen or develop appropriate domestic controls over precursors including measures to control the international trade in precursor chemicals and other controlled chemical substances, consistent with the framework established in the United Nations Drug Conventions, and law enforcement measures.

Argentina has incorporated the following control measures contained in Article 12, paragraph 8 of the 1988 United Nations Convention in its legislation:

Control measures	Yes	No
Control of all persons and enterprises engaged in the manufacture and distribution of controlled chemical substances	X	
Control, under license, the establishment and premises in which manufacture, or distribution of controlled chemical substances may take place	X	
Require that licensees obtain a permit for manufacturing or distributing controlled chemical substances	X	
Prevent the accumulation of controlled chemical substances in the possession of manufacturers and distributors, in excess of the quantities required for the normal conduct of business and the prevailing market conditions	X	

The country has incorporated the following control measures contained in Article 12, paragraph 9 of the 1988 United Nations Convention in its legislation:

Control measures	Yes	No
A system to monitor international trade in controlled chemical substances to facilitate the identification of suspicious transactions	X	
The monitoring system shall be used by manufacturers, importers, exporters, wholesalers, and retailers to inform the competent authorities of suspicious orders and transactions	X	
Any controlled substance is seized if there is sufficient evidence that it will be used in the illicit manufacture of narcotics or psychotropic substances	X	
The competent authorities are notified, as soon as possible, if there is reason to believe that the import, export, or transit of a substance is destined for the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances, including, in particular, information about the means of payment and any other essential elements which led to that belief	X	
Requirements to ensure that imports and exports are properly labelled and documented. Commercial documents such as invoices, cargo manifests, customs, transport, and other shipping documents must include the names of the substances, the quantity, and the name and address of the exporter, the importer and, when available, the consignee. These documents are kept for a period of no less than two years and may be made available for inspection by competent authorities	X	

Argentina complies with the request for information in Article 12, Paragraph 10 of the 1988 United Nations Convention.

The country has additional precursor chemical control measures. Pursuant to Articles 3 and 9 of Law 26.045 and Article 1 of Decree 593/2019, there are measures to control the holding, utilization, production, manufacture, development, extraction, preparation, subdivision, packaging, re-packaging, storage, deposit, transport, transshipment, treatment, final disposal, acquisition, sale, export, import, distribution, loan, cession, donation of chemical precursors, or any other act whereby they are delivered or transferred, free of charge or for a fee.

Priority Action 3.5: Promote participation in the Pre-Export Notification (PEN) Online system and Precursor Incident Communication System (PICS) to facilitate information exchange on controlled chemical substances.

Argentina uses the Pre-Export Notification (PEN) Online system of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) on controlled chemical substances.

The country uses the INCB's Precursor Incident Communication System (PICS).

Priority Action 3.6: Train relevant drug investigation, control and interdiction personnel and researchers on the identification and handling of precursors and other controlled chemical substances used in the illicit manufacture of drugs.

Argentina receives the following training for drug control personnel and for the identification and handling of controlled chemical substances:

Training Programs	Institution in Charge (national or international)
Operational GRIDS tools for combatting trafficking in NPS and other dangerous substances	International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)
GNA Special Anti-drug Aptitude	Argentine National Gendarmerie (GNA) with the collaboration of the Directorate for Registration and Control of Chemical Precursors
Tactical Analyst and Research Course on Combating Drugs	Argentine National Gendarmerie (GNA) with the collaboration of the Directorate for Registration and Control of Chemical Precursors
Control of Chemical Precursors	Argentine National Gendarmerie (GNA) with the collaboration of the Directorate for Registration and Control of Chemical Precursors
Control of Chemical Precursors	Airport Security Police (PSA) and the Directorate of Registration and Control of Chemical Precursors
Safe Handling of Chemical Precursors	CIQUIME (Chemical Information Center for Emergencies) – Private Organization
Use of portable RAMAN and FTIR spectrophotometers	Directorate of Registration and Control of Chemical Precursors

Priority Action 3.7: Allocate resources to acquire necessary equipment and supplies for the preliminary identification of substances, and the protective equipment required by personnel in charge of these tasks.

In Argentina there are budgetary mechanisms that ensures the allocation of resources and supplies necessary for the preliminary identification of substances and protective equipment required by personnel in charge of these tasks. In this sense, the country has budgetary headings corresponding to the Ministry of Security (national budget), collection linked to fee-based procedures in the National Registry of Chemical Precursors, and collection related to monetary fines imposed for failure to comply with Law 26.045 and its regulatory decree.

Priority Action 3.8: Use, as appropriate, CICAD’s Model Regulations for the Control of Chemical Substances Used in the Illicit Production of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (2019) in the formulation of national chemical control regulations.

The Directorate of Registration and Control of Chemical Precursors of Argentina’s Ministry of Security uses the CICAD Model Regulations for the Control of Chemical Substances Used in the Illicit Production of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in relation to the actions of chemical precursor operators, control tasks, and criminal complaints filed.

OBJECTIVE
4

ENSURE ADEQUATE AVAILABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF SUBSTANCES SUBJECT TO INTERNATIONAL CONTROL FOR MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES, WHILE ALSO PREVENTING THEIR DIVERSION TOWARDS ILLICIT ACTIVITIES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL CONVENTIONS.

Priority Action 4.1: Streamline, in accordance with national legislation and international obligations, the process for issuing authorizations for national production, and to import and export controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes.

Argentina has special processes for issuing authorizations for the national production, import, and export of substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes. The average time it takes to issue an import or export authorization is shown in the following table:

Product type	Average time to issue import permits	Average time to issue export permits
Narcotic or psychotropic raw materials for the manufacture of medicines	30 days	30 days
Medications containing narcotic or psychotropic drugs	30 days	30 days
Analytical patterns classified as narcotic or psychotropic	30 days	30 days
Medication classified as narcotic or psychotropic for the personal use of travelers entering or leaving the country	There are no national regulations	There are no national regulations

The country has an updated register of individuals or companies importing and exporting controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes.

Priority Action 4.2: Adopt measures, in accordance with national laws, to train competent authorities and health professionals on ensuring access to substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes.

Argentina does not have training or awareness activities for competent national authorities and health professionals on the proper access to substances subject to international control solely for medical and scientific purposes.

Priority Action 4.3: Improve access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes by addressing existing barriers, including those related to laws, regulations, and measures to promote access and build capacity for health care systems.

Argentina has a regulatory framework to govern the acquisition of substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes. However, no regulations and/or

administrative measures have been adopted to improve access to these substances by the medical and scientific communities.

OBJECTIVE

5

ADOPT OR STRENGTHEN CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT DIVERSION OF CONTROLLED PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS CONTAINING NARCOTIC DRUGS AND/OR PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES, AND THOSE CONTAINING PRECURSOR SUBSTANCES USED IN THE PRODUCTION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES.

Priority Action 5.1: Strengthen or implement control measures on pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or controlled psychoactive substances, to prevent their diversion for non-medical purposes, abuse, and trafficking.

Argentina has an updated register of individuals and corporations handling pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or psychotropic substances which includes information on the name of the company, domicile, and individual responsible.

The country issues licenses to manufacturers and distributors of pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or psychotropic substances.

Argentina carries out regular inspections and audits of the establishments of individuals and corporations authorized to handle pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or psychotropic substances.

Priority Action 5.2: Update existing and other regulations and control measures to prevent diversion of pharmaceutical products containing narcotic drugs and/or psychotropic substances.

Argentina has the following penalties for infractions or violations by individuals or corporations that handle pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or psychotropic substances:

Type of penalty	Year of last update
Criminal	2021 (Law N° 23.737)
Administrative	2021 (Law N° 26.045)
	2019 (Decree N° 593/2019)
	2021 (Law N° 19.303)
	2021 (Law N° 17.818)

Priority Action 5.3: Strengthen national capacity and regional cooperation to prevent trade in and diversion of materials and equipment for illicit production or manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including pill presses and encapsulating equipment.

Argentina offers periodic training programs for personnel responsible for preventing trade in and diversion of materials and equipment for illicit production or manufacture of narcotics and psychotropic substances. In the context of training provided by the Directorate of Registration

and Control of Chemical Products, information is provided on the use of machines to produce capsules, tablets, or pills in that they are regulated by the National Registry of Precursor Chemicals (RENPRE).

In addition, National Administration of Medicines, Food and Medical Technology (ANMAT) has a Training and Research Coordinating Office that provides various courses.

Argentina shares information with the Precursors Incident Communication System (PICS) system regarding the diversion of materials and equipment for illicit production or manufacture of narcotics and psychotropic substances. However, the country has not recorded incidents to be shared.

Priority Action 5.4: Promote the incorporation of competent national authorities to the International Import and Export Authorization System (I2ES) of the International Narcotics Control Board, a secure online platform, ready to issue, load, and exchange expeditiously import and export authorizations of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical use, between countries.

Argentina does not use the International Narcotics Control Board's (INCB) International Import and Export Authorization System (I2ES). However, it has the National Drugs System (NDS) as an alternative mechanism that is prepared to expeditiously issue, load, and exchange import and export authorizations for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical use between countries.

The country has received training on the INCB's I2ES.

OBJECTIVE**6**

STRENGTHEN OR DEVELOP SPECIFIC OPERATIONAL AND INTELLIGENCE GATHERING AND SHARING MECHANISMS TO DETECT METHODS USED BY CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THE EXPLOITATION OF LAND, RIVERINE, MARITIME, AND AERIAL ROUTES.

Priority Action 6.1: Train law enforcement personnel involved in drug investigations in specialized investigative techniques and intelligence collection, analysis, and operations, including through the use of existing information systems and intelligence data exchanges.

Argentina implements periodic training programs for personnel involved in drug investigations in specialized investigative techniques and intelligence collection, analysis, and operations. In this sense, the training activities organized by the Police and Security Forces in order to professionalize police action and update personnel who perform the various tasks linked to this subject are as follows:

Airport Security Police

Criminal investigation:

- Introduction to Complex Crimes-Investigation Techniques, 2 sessions, 40 troops per session, bimodal
- Criminal Investigation Methodology, 1 session, 30 troops per session, bimodal

Argentine National Gendarmerie

Criminal investigation:

- Basic criminal investigator course, 1 session, 30 troops per session, bimodal
- Scams on the web: identification and investigation, 1 session, 100 troops per session, virtual
- Aptitude in criminal intelligence for junior officers, 1 session, 60 troops per session, bimodal
- Update on criminal intelligence for senior national gendarmerie personnel, 1 session, 10 troops per session, in person
- Aptitude in criminal intelligence for senior technician NCOs in criminal intelligence and drug trafficking, 1 session, 30 troops per session, virtual

Argentine Federal Police

Criminal investigation:

- Basic course on investigation, prevention, and combating complex crimes, 1 session, 125 troops per session, bimodal
- Advanced course on investigation, prevention, and combating complex crimes, 1 session, 40 troops per session, in person
- Forensic investigation course, 1 session, 30 troops per session, in person
- Basic course on fire investigation, 1 session, 30 troops per session, virtual
- Professional fire investigation course, 2 sessions, 30 troops per session, in person
- Course on investigation of organized theft, 1 session, 30 troops per session, in person
- Course on investigation of extortive kidnapping, 1 session, 30 troops per session, in person
- Course on investigation of violent death, 1 session, 50 troops per session, in person

- Course on investigation of technological crimes, 1 session, 100 troops per session, in person
- Course on investigation of crypto currencies and the dark web, 1 session, 50 troops per session, in person
- Introductory course on criminal intelligence, 1 session, 30 troops per session, in person
- Advanced course on criminal intelligence, 1 session, 30 troops per session, bimodal
- Intensive course on criminal intelligence, 1 session, 30 troops per session, in person
- Course on federal investigation regarding search and capture of fugitives, 1 session, 120 troops per session, in person
- Basic course on analysis of criminal intelligence, 1 session, 20 troops per session, in person
- Basic course on analysis of criminal intelligence, 1 session, 30 troops per session, in person
- Basic course on analysis of criminal intelligence, 1 session, 30 troops per session, in person

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Criminal investigation:

- Complementary course on criminal intelligence and investigation, 2 sessions, 15 troops per session, virtual
- Auxiliary course on criminal intelligence and investigation, 1 session, 35 troops per session, in person
- Specialist course on criminal intelligence and investigation, 1 session, 15 troops per session, in person

In addition, the following training is provided:

- Inter-sectional meeting of the Commission on Drugs
- Controlled deliveries for AIRCOP units and special prosecutors
- Licensing system for licit weapons trade

Priority Action 6.2: Enhance the capabilities of law enforcement agencies that investigate and counter drug trafficking and the crimes that facilitate and are associated with trafficking, such as corruption and money laundering, through ongoing training of the involved personnel.

Argentina implements periodic training programs and capacity-building activities to investigate and counter crimes associated with drug trafficking such as corruption and money laundering. In this sense, the Police and Security Forces, in order to professionalize police action and keep personnel performing the various tasks linked to this subject up to date, provide, through the Airport Security Police, a bimodal (in person and virtual) course on general aspects of preventing money laundering, two sessions of which have been carried out, with 30 troops attending each session.

Priority Action 6.3: Strengthen cooperation and the exchange of information among the domestic, regional, and international law enforcement agencies to carry out operations and investigations to counter drug trafficking and related crimes.

Argentina has information gathering mechanisms to exchange intelligence information at a domestic, regional, and international level to detect routes and methods used by drug trafficking criminal organizations.

In the case of the national intelligence directorate, exercising the management and coordination functions of the sub-system for Criminal Intelligence and in compliance with its institutional function of producing criminal intelligence, it should be emphasized that there are decentralized agencies for exchanging information and coordinating tactical actions to collect and exchange intelligence information. These meet on a fixed schedule and convene both police unit members and federal security forces. Areas intended to address illicit operations on the borders are more relevant. In turn, there is stable and active participation in actions promoted by multilateral organizations with specialized units in this area. These methods move toward convergence of intervention agendas for the purpose of harmonizing objectives and working guidelines.

Priority Action 6.4: Promote and strengthen the exchange of information and intelligence on matters of drug interdiction and effective border control measures to prevent drug trafficking by land, river, sea, and air.

Argentina has tools that promote and strengthen cooperation and the exchange of information and intelligence among domestic law enforcement agencies responsible for drug interdiction and effective border control. In this sense, the National Criminal Intelligence Directorate encourages and promotes that cooperation and exchange in that it is essential for producing knowledge on the drug trafficking phenomenon and for developing public policies relating to the development of effective border control.

Specifically, the National Criminal Intelligence Directorate develops actions intended to optimize the resources available in the country's police units and security forces. In a sense, the agencies deployed with policing power report the results of their actions by compiling the indicated reports, providing feedback for them, and enhancing them with information available and stored, thus producing reports that are later disseminated to the competent authorities and agencies to promote and contribute to the design of public security policies. These tools are confidential in nature.

Priority Action 6.5: Improve the information systems on drug trafficking and related crimes, including alerts on changing behavior patterns and modus operandi of criminal drug trafficking organizations.

Argentina has a national information system on drug trafficking and related crimes, including

alerts on changing behaviors and modus operandi of criminal organizations. Regarding information on procedures, the country collects information from the four security forces, the police forces of the 24 administrative units that make up the national territory, and the General Customs Directorate.

The information system on drug trafficking is under the jurisdiction of the National Directorate Combating Drug Trafficking of the Ministry of Security, as established in Administrative Decision 335/2020. In this area, information is collected from the above-mentioned institutions and national reports and responses to the different international forms are drafted on the basis of that information.

OBJECTIVE
7

ESTABLISH, UPDATE, OR REINFORCE, AS APPROPRIATE, THE LEGISLATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS IN THE AREAS OF PREVENTION, DETECTION, INVESTIGATION, PROSECUTION, AND CONTROL OF MONEY LAUNDERING DERIVED FROM DRUG TRAFFICKING, SUCH AS THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FINANCIAL ACTION TASK FORCE (FATF).

Priority Action 7.1: Strengthen implementation of the legal, regulatory, and operational frameworks in the areas of prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution, and control of money laundering associated with drug trafficking.

Argentina has strengthened its legislative frameworks to counter money laundering derived from drug trafficking. In this sense, the country has Law 25.246 of 2.000 and Law 26.683 amending the Criminal Code and replacing and incorporating articles in Law 25.246.

Priority Action 7.2: Develop and implement specialized ongoing training in areas of prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution, and control of money laundering derived from drug trafficking, consistent with known and emerging risks.

Argentina has periodic training programs for officials and those in vulnerable sectors on prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution, and control of money laundering derived from drug trafficking. In this sense, the following training sessions have been conducted for agents of the Federal Forces:

- Introduction to the crime of money laundering
- Introduction to assets in investigation of economic crimes.
- Special investigation techniques applied to complex crimes
- Specific Undercover Investigation Techniques
- Money Laundering Crime Refresher Course
- Introductory Course on Economic Crimes and Asset and Financial Investigation
- First course on Money Laundering and the Financial Economic Fight against Organized Crime

Priority Action 7.3: Enhance investigations by competent authorities into drug trafficking cases linked to money laundering and illicit use of assets.

Argentina has protocols that enable the authorities to conduct financial and asset investigations parallel to drug trafficking investigations. In this sense, the Office of the Prosecutor for Economic Crimes and Money Laundering (PROCELAC) operates within the orbit of the Public Prosecutor's Office. In addition, a Manual on Asset Investigation was developed in 2011.

Priority Action 7.4: Strengthen interagency coordination and cooperation in relation to the development of national anti-money laundering strategies, including through coordinating committees and task forces.

Argentina has the following mechanisms allowing for inter-agency coordination and cooperation in the area of preventing and controlling money laundering:

- Within the orbit of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, the National Coordinating Office to Prevent Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism (ML/FT) chairs the Committee to Combat ML/FT, consisting of 11 bodies
- The Ministry of Security has been working in coordination with different bodies based on actions and missions within the jurisdiction of each body

Priority Action 7.5: Strengthen the exchange of financial intelligence as related to money laundering, including through the standardization of information systems.

Argentina has the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), a body with autonomy and financial self-sufficiency under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Economy, created by Law 25.246 (B.O. 10-5-2000).

The country has information systems aimed at the investigation and prosecution of money laundering for analyzing cases deriving from drug trafficking. In this sense, the FIU receives on-line Suspicious Transaction Reports and monthly reports from entities required to report as provided in Article 20 of Law 25.246. In addition, any individual or legal entity may file complaints with the FIU on the commission of alleged money laundering crimes.

Priority Action 7.6: Identify and analyze money laundering threats to mitigate risks through public policies that strengthen the regime for preventing and countering money laundering, in accordance with applicable international instruments.

Argentina has mechanisms for analyzing money laundering risks, in accordance with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations. In this sense, the FIU has a risk assessment matrix of Suspicious Transaction Reports submitted by entities required to report as provided in Article 20 of Law 25.246; this system performs systematic and dynamic analysis of all reports entering the Unit using a risk-based approach provided by the FATF Recommendations. Reports selected by the matrix are subject to in-depth analysis by the FIU to finally determine whether there are suspicions of money laundering and then reported to the Office of the Public Prosecutor or Intervening Judge under Article 19 of Law 25.246.

The Risk Matrix system is confidential; nonetheless, the FIU Management Reports mention the matrix.

Priority Action 7.7: Strengthen partnerships with the financial industries to identify and investigate illicit transactions and money laundering operations related to the proceeds of drug trafficking activities.

Argentina has not established partnerships with the financial industries to identify or investigate illicit transactions and money laundering operations arising from activities related to drug trafficking.

OBJECTIVE

8

ESTABLISH AND/OR STRENGTHEN AGENCIES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND DISPOSITION OF SEIZED AND/OR FORFEITED ASSETS IN CASES OF DRUG TRAFFICKING, MONEY LAUNDERING, AND OTHER RELATED CRIMES, IN LINE WITH APPLICABLE INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND IN LINE WITH RELEVANT STANDARDS, SUCH AS THE FATF RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS ON PREVENTIVE FREEZING OF ASSETS.

Priority Action 8.1: Establish and/or strengthen, as appropriate, national entities responsible for the administration and disposition of assets seized and/or forfeited in cases of drug trafficking, money laundering, and other related crimes.

Priority Action 8.2: Establish specialized agencies and appropriate mechanisms for the transparent administration of seized and forfeited assets, in accordance with national laws and international standards.

Argentina has the following designated competent authorities responsible for the administration and disposition of seized and forfeited assets:

- National Registry of Assets Seized and Forfeited during Criminal Proceedings, created by Decree 826/2011 under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights
- Judicial Branch, under Article 23 of the Penal Code
- Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), under Law 25.246
- Joint Administration Commission, under Law 23.737

Argentina has the following regulations to facilitate accountability and transparency in the management of seized and forfeited assets:

- Penal Code, Article 23
- Law 23.853, Article 3
- Law 23.737, Article 39
- Law 24.424
- Law 22.415, Section XII, Title I
- Law 25.246, Article 27
- Law 27.508

Priority Action 8.3: Develop and implement specialized, ongoing training programs for law enforcement officials charged with the administration and disposition of seized and forfeited assets.

Argentina does not offer or participate in specialized, periodic training programs for the management and disposition of seized and forfeited assets.

Priority Action 8.4: In accordance with each country's constitutional principles, apply legislative and regulatory measures to facilitate the seizure, forfeiture and management of assets, instruments, or products of illicit drug-related activities.

Argentina has the following legislation, procedures as well as other specific measures, in accordance with international conventions and treaties, to facilitate the seizure, forfeiture, and management of assets, instruments, or proceeds derived from illicit activities related to drug trafficking and other related crimes:

- United Nations Convention against Illicit Trade in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances-Law 24.072
- Inter-American Convention against Corruption Law 24.759
- International Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and supplementary protocols-Law 25.632
- Inter-American Convention against Terrorism-Law 26.023
- United Nations Convention against Corruption-Law 26.097
- Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking in Firearms, their Components and Parts, and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on May 31, 2001-Law 26.138
- Penal Code: Article 23
- Law 23.737: Article 39
- Law No 23.853: Article 3
- Law 25.246: Article 27
- Law 27.508
- Precautionary Measures Guide for Recovery of Assets.

OBJECTIVE

9

DESIGN, IMPLEMENT, AND STRENGTHEN COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED NATIONAL PROGRAMS TO REDUCE THE ILLICIT CULTIVATION, PRODUCTION AND MANUFACTURE OF DRUGS THROUGH THE ADOPTION OF EFFECTIVE MEASURES, SUCH AS COMPREHENSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT, ENHANCED LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE PARTICULAR NEEDS OF SUB-NATIONAL REGIONS OF EACH COUNTRY, RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS.

Priority Action 9.1: Design, implement, and update national policies and programs to prevent and decrease illicit cultivation, production, and manufacture of drugs.

Argentina, through the Ministry of Security, has designed national policies and programs to prevent and decrease illicit cultivation, production, and manufacture of illicit drugs through the 2021-2023 Federal Plan to Address Organized Crime.

Priority Action 9.2: Establish budgetary mechanisms to ensure sufficient and consistent allocation of resources to counternarcotics programs.

Argentina directs budgetary allocations towards financing counternarcotics programs, consisting of budgetary headings corresponding to the Ministry of Security (national budget), collection linked to fee-based procedures of the National Register of Chemical Precursors, and collection related to fines imposed for failure to comply with Law 26.045 and its regulatory decree.

Priority Action 9.3: Promote supply reduction measures that take into account licit traditional uses, whenever there is historical evidence of such uses, as well as environmental protection.

Under Article 15 of Law 23.737, Argentina takes into account licit traditional uses of cocaine leaf in the design and implementation of policies and programs to reduce the illicit supply of drugs.

The country includes environmental protection measures in its policies and programs to reduce the illicit supply of drugs. In this sense, the Protocol on Traceability and Destruction of Seized or Forfeited Narcotics, approved by Resolution 1.275/2017, establishes that “in cases where incineration is ordered as the method of destruction, pyrolytic ovens will be used to ensure treatment of vapors so they will not be harmful to the environment; in case of doubt, the collaboration of Firemen and Environmental Protection personnel from the various forces should be sought.”

Priority Action 9.4: Strengthen interagency cooperation to provide a comprehensive response against the illicit production of drugs, including collaboration among the public and private sectors and the international community.

Argentina has established mechanisms for inter-institutional cooperation between public and private institutions to provide a comprehensive response to the illicit production of drugs. In this sense, the internal regulations of the Federal Council on Chemical Precursors, created under Law 27,283 as the advisory body for the authority enforcing the National Register of Chemical Precursors, provides in its internal rules that, at the request of one of its members and for the purposes of addressing a particular problem, business chambers and union organizations in sectors related to the production, distribution, and sale of chemical precursors are invited to participate in the Council's meetings.

In this sense, representatives from various business chambers attended the latest meetings held by that council.

In addition, it should be noted that the Secretariat of Integral Policies on Drugs of the Argentinean Nation (SEDRONAR) Resolution 580/2014 approved the Voluntary Code of Responsible Conduct with Respect to the Use of Chemical Precursors, which emphasizes the importance of discussions between the government and the corporate sector, corporate social responsibility, training opportunities, establishing in turn different communication channels.

Priority Action 9.5: Support supply reduction programs with crime prevention initiatives, in cooperation with civil society and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to address social and economic risk factors.

Argentina supports the development of supply reduction programs with drug-related crime prevention initiatives that address social and economic risk factors, which include the participation of civil society and other social actors. In this sense, the action lines of the Ministry of Security intended to reduce the supply of drugs, which contain crime prevention initiatives and the participation of civil society and other social actors, are as follows:

- Safe Neighborhoods Program
- Neighborhood Prevention Unit (UPB)
- AVISÁ Program
- Recovery of Public Spaces Program
- Promote Security Program
- Build Citizen Security Program
- Labor Reconversion Program
- Territorial Gender Focal Points Program
- Municipal Security Observatories.

OBJECTIVE**10**

DESIGN, IMPLEMENT OR STRENGTHEN LONG-TERM ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, INCLUDING RURAL AND URBAN ALTERNATIVES, COMPREHENSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, AND AS APPROPRIATE, PREVENTIVE ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICIES, LAWS AND NEEDS OF EACH COUNTRY, AS APPROPRIATE, WHILE RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS.

Priority Action 10.1: Design and implement comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate, while respecting human rights.

Argentina has not designed or implemented comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs or preventive alternative development, as part of the strategies to control and reduce illicit crops.

Priority Action 10.2: Exchange experiences and best practices in the design and implementation of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate.

Not Applicable.

Priority Action 10.3: Promote and disseminate the results of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs, and the benefits they provide to affected communities.

Not Applicable.

Priority Action 10.4: Design and/or strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems for comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs aimed at reducing illicit crop cultivation and improving the well-being of communities, through the use of indicators that measure programs' effectiveness.

Not Applicable.

Priority Action 10.5: Strengthen state presence in areas affected by or at risk of illicit drug cultivation, consistent with the circumstances of each member state.

Not Applicable.

Priority Action 10.6: Promote, in accordance with national realities, the participation of local communities and relevant organizations in the development of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs, taking into account their needs and capabilities.

Not Applicable.

Priority Action 10.7: Promote partnerships and innovative cooperative initiatives with the private sector, civil society, and international financial institutions to spur investment and job creation in areas and communities affected by or at-risk of illicit drug cultivation and production, and share related practices, lessons learned, expertise, and skills.

Not Applicable.

OBJECTIVE
11**DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT PLANS AND/OR PROGRAMS TO MITIGATE AND REDUCE THE IMPACT OF ILLICIT CROPS AND DRUG PRODUCTION ON THE ENVIRONMENT, IN COOPERATION WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND NATIONAL POLICIES OF MEMBER STATES.**

Priority Action 11.1: Conduct research and studies on the environmental impact of illicit crop cultivation and illicit production of drugs.

During the period of evaluation (2019-2022), Argentina did not carry out research or studies to determine the characteristics and extent of the environmental impact caused by the illicit cultivation and production of drugs.

Priority Action 11.2: Design and implement specific research-based plans to mitigate the environmental impact of illicit crop cultivation and drug production, with the participation of local communities.

Not applicable.

Priority Action 11.3: Promote and strengthen the use of environmental management tools, as appropriate.

Not applicable.

OBJECTIVE**12****ADDRESS THE EFFECTS OF SMALL-SCALE DRUG TRAFFICKING ON PUBLIC HEALTH, THE ECONOMY, SOCIAL COHESION, AND CITIZEN SECURITY.**

Priority Action 12.1: Develop and implement local approaches for controlling micro-trafficking and related crimes.

Priority Action 12.4: Encourage the development and implementation of comprehensive intervention strategies to counter local illicit distribution and sale of drugs.

Argentina has developed and implemented approaches for controlling micro-trafficking and related crimes, which take into account effects on public health, social cohesion, and citizen security. In this sense, Law 26.052 was passed in 2005, allowing each province to defederalize narcotics issues, bringing cases from the federal forum to the ordinary forum, in accordance with criteria established in that law. In recent years, various provinces have acceded to this law. This allows each administrative unit that has acceded to adjudicate crimes indicated and punished under Law 23.737 when narcotics are traded, delivered, supplied, or facilitated in divided doses intended directly for the user, among other crimes.

Priority Action 12.2: Promote the interagency exchange of information at the national level to better understand the scope and adverse effects of small-scale drug trafficking, including on health, society, the economy, and security.

Argentina does not promote the inter-agency exchange of information on the effects of small-scale drug trafficking in the health, social, economic, or security sectors.

Priority Action 12.3: Promote programs and strategies to prevent the exploitation of at-risk populations by drug trafficking networks, at the national and international level.

Argentina has the following strategies for preventing the exploitation of at-risk populations affected by drug trafficking by illicit drug trafficking networks at the national and international level. In this sense, the lines of action from the Argentine Ministry of Security aimed at preventing the exploitation of at-risk populations by illicit drug trafficking networks are: Territorial Gender Focal Points and Neighborhood Prevention Units.

EVALUATIVE SUMMARY

Objective 1

Develop and/or strengthen national- and regional-level interdiction capacity, as well as the capacity to reduce the illicit cultivation, production, trafficking, and distribution of plant-based and synthetic drugs through the use of comprehensive and balanced programs in accordance with the realities of each country's domestic legislation and respect for human rights.

CICAD notes that Argentina implements ongoing training programs to detect, investigate and dismantle laboratories or facilities, used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, for personnel involved in interdiction operations; however, it is observed that the country does not have protocols or operating procedures to detect, investigate, and dismantle clandestine laboratories or facilities for the illicit processing or manufacture of drugs. Likewise, CICAD observes that the agencies in charge of drug control in Argentina implement policies that promote gender mainstreaming. In addition, CICAD notes that the country has programs and strategies for land, riverine, maritime and aerial interdiction through monitoring, inspections and checkpoints. In addition, CICAD notes that the country has legal instruments for the use of specialized investigation tools and techniques to prevent and reduce drug trafficking. CICAD also notes that the country has updated assessments or studies to identify new trends and threats on drug trafficking and related crimes. Likewise, CICAD notes with satisfaction that Argentina implements actions to identify organized criminal groups involved in illicit drug trafficking and related crimes, implements inter-institutional collaboration and cooperation mechanisms to carry out coordinated actions to dismantle organized criminal groups involved in these crimes, and has participated in joint operations and investigations with other countries aimed at dismantling these organized criminal groups. In addition, CICAD notes that the country has institutions that are responsible for, and capable of, analyzing chemical substances, precursors and pharmaceutical products, and synthetic drugs, including new psychoactive substances (NPS) and provides and participates in ongoing training programs for personnel involved in the analysis of these substances. In addition, CICAD notes that Argentina has mechanisms in place to facilitate or share information on the subject at the national level among government counterparts and with global repositories on these substances. CICAD notes that the country has mechanisms in place to investigate and disrupt illicit drug trafficking through the Internet. CICAD notes that the country maintains partnerships and information exchange mechanisms with private sector entities to prevent access to materials and services exploited for illicit drug trafficking purposes and uses INCB tools and resources to strengthen cooperation with the private sector to prevent the diversion of chemical substances. CICAD notes that Argentina has national authorities with the appropriate budget, human and material resources, as well as ongoing training for the forfeiture, seizure, and management of assets, tools, or products related to illicit drug markets and its competent personnel receive ongoing training in this area.

Objective 2

Strengthen national measures to address the challenges posed by NPS and illicit synthetic drugs, and the threat of fentanyl-related substances, non-medical synthetic opioids, and illicit amphetamine derivatives.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that Argentina has an early warning system (EWS) to identify and trace new psychoactive substances (NPS), illicit synthetic drugs, and the threat of fentanyl-related substances, non-medical synthetic opioids, illicit amphetamine derivatives, and other substances subject to international control. On the other hand, CICAD notes that the country improves its capabilities to detect and analyze NPS through the use of special investigative techniques, updated equipment, and the acquisition of new technology. Additionally, CICAD notes that the country has a regulatory framework in place to identify and address the challenges posed by onset of NPS and emerging illicit synthetic drugs. In addition, CICAD notes that the country participates in the INCB ION Project. Also, CICAD notes that the country has innovative legislation to control synthetic opioids for non-medical use and NPS.

Objective 3

Strengthen or develop legal and institutional frameworks for the effective monitoring and control of essential chemical substances and precursors to prevent diversion of these substances to the manufacturing of illicit drugs and counter its trafficking, including periodically updating national lists of controlled chemical substances.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that Argentina has a competent national authority responsible for developing guides, codes of conduct, or other instruments to inform the industry and users in general of controlled chemical substances and has developed such instruments and mechanisms to prevent the diversion of controlled chemical substances. CICAD also notes that the country has an updated registry of all individuals and corporations handling controlled chemical substances and that its responsible authority carries out regular inspections and audits of the establishments of individuals and corporations authorized to handle these substances. In addition, CICAD notes that the country conducts analyses that include the exchange of information through existing mechanisms at the international level on substances, their analogs and precursors which pose a threat to public health. CICAD also notes that Argentina has legislation that incorporates control measures contained in Article 12 of the 1988 United Nations Convention to Prevent the Diversion of Controlled Chemical Substances to Illicit Activities, which incorporate all of the control measures in Paragraph 8, all of the control measures in Paragraph 9, and requests for information set forth in Paragraph 10. Likewise, CICAD notes that the country uses the PEN Online system to make pre-export notifications of controlled chemical substances, as well as the PICS system. In addition, CICAD notes that the country receives training for drug control personnel for the identification and handling of controlled chemical substances. In addition, CICAD notes that the country has budgetary mechanisms to ensure allocation of resources to acquire the necessary equipment and supplies for the preliminary identification of substances and the protective equipment required by the personnel in charge of these tasks. Likewise, CICAD notes that Argentina uses the CICAD Model Regulations for the Control of

Chemical Substances Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

Objective 4

Ensure adequate availability and accessibility of substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes, while also preventing their diversion towards illicit activities, in accordance with international drug control conventions.

CICAD notes that Argentina has special processes for issuing authorizations for the national production, import, and export of substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes, and that it has an updated register of individuals or companies importing and exporting substances subject to international control for medical and scientific purposes; however, CICAD notes that the country does not have training or awareness activities for competent national authorities and health professionals on the proper access to substances subject to international control solely for medical and scientific purposes. CICAD also notes that the country has a regulatory framework governing the acquisition of internationally controlled substances but no regulations and/or administrative measures have been adopted to improve access to these substances by the medical and scientific communities.

Objective 5

Adopt or strengthen control measures to prevent diversion of controlled pharmaceutical products containing narcotic drugs and/or psychotropic substances, and those containing precursor substances used in the production of controlled substances.

CICAD notes that Argentina has an updated register of individuals and corporations handling pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or psychotropic substances, issues licenses to manufacturers and distributors authorizing the handling of these products and carries out regular inspections and audits of the establishments of individuals and corporations authorized to handle them. CICAD notes with satisfaction that the country has criminal, and administrative penalties for infractions or violations by individuals or corporations that handle pharmaceutical products containing precursor substances, narcotics, or psychotropic substances. Additionally, CICAD notes that Argentina offers periodic training programs for personnel responsible for preventing trade in and diversion of materials and equipment for illicit production or manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and share information with other regional or global systems on this matter. Additionally, CICAD observes that the country does not use the INCB's I2ES system; however, it has an alternative mechanism to issue, upload or exchange import and export authorizations for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical use between countries; and the country has received training in the use of the I2ES system.

Objective 6

Strengthen or develop specific operational and intelligence gathering and sharing mechanisms to detect methods used by criminal organizations, including the exploitation of land, riverine, maritime, and aerial routes.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that Argentina participates in periodic training programs for personnel involved in drug investigations in specialized investigative techniques and intelligence collection, analysis, and operations, likewise, the country participates in periodic training programs and other capacity-building activities to investigate and counter crimes associated with drug trafficking, such as corruption and money laundering. Additionally, CICAD notes that Argentina has information gathering mechanisms to exchange intelligence information, at a domestic, regional, and international level, to detect routes and methods used by drug trafficking criminal organizations. The CICAD also observes that the country has tools that promote and strengthen cooperation and the exchange of information and intelligence among domestic law enforcement agencies responsible for drug interdiction and effective border control. Additionally, CICAD notes that Argentina has a national information system on drug trafficking and related crimes, including alerts on changing behaviors and modus operandi of criminal organizations.

Objective 7

Establish, update, or reinforce, as appropriate, the legislative and institutional frameworks in the areas of prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution, and control of money laundering derived from drug trafficking, such as the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

CICAD notes that Argentina has strengthen its legislative frameworks to counter money laundering derived from drug trafficking; Also, CICAD notes that it has periodic training programs for officials and those in vulnerable sectors on prevention, detection, investigation, and prosecution of money laundering derived from drug trafficking. additionally, CICAD notes that the country has protocols that enable the authorities to conduct financial and asset investigations parallel to drug trafficking investigations Likewise, CICAD notes it has mechanisms allowing for inter-agency coordination and cooperation in the area of preventing and controlling money laundering. CICAD notes that Argentina has a financial intelligence unit, and it has information systems aimed at the investigation and prosecution of money laundering in analyzing cases deriving from drug trafficking; CICAD notes that the country has mechanisms for analyzing money laundering risks, in accordance with the FATF recommendations. However, CICAD notes that Argentina has not established partnerships with the financial industries to identify and investigate illicit transactions and money laundering operations related to the proceeds of drug trafficking activities.

Objective 8

Establish and/or strengthen agencies for the administration and disposition of seized and/or forfeited assets in cases of drug trafficking, money laundering, and other related crimes, in line with applicable international law, and in line with relevant standards, such as the FATF recommendations and the recommendations on preventive freezing of assets.

CICAD notes that Argentina has designated competent authorities responsible for the administration and disposition of seized and forfeited assets and with regulations to facilitate the accountability and transparency of the management of seized and forfeited assets. However, the country does not offer nor participates in specialized, periodic training programs for the management and disposition of seized and forfeited assets. Moreover, CICAD observes that Argentina has legislation in accordance with international conventions and treaties, to facilitate the seizure, forfeiture, and management of assets and instruments derived from drug trafficking and other related crimes.

Objective 9

Design, implement, and strengthen comprehensive and balanced national programs to reduce the illicit cultivation, production and manufacture of drugs through the adoption of effective measures, such as comprehensive and sustainable alternative development, enhanced law enforcement cooperation, and other appropriate policies and programs, taking into account the particular needs of sub-national regions of each country, respecting human rights.

CICAD notes with satisfaction that Argentina has designed national policies and programs to prevent and decrease illicit cultivation, production, and manufacture of drugs. In addition, CICAD observes that the country has direct budgetary allocations towards financing counternarcotics programs. Likewise, CICAD notes that the country takes into account the licit traditional use in designing and implementing policies and programs to reduce the illicit supply of drugs, which include environmental protection measures. CICAD observes that the country has established mechanisms for interinstitutional cooperation between public and private institutions to provide a comprehensive response to the illicit production of drugs. Additionally, CICAD notes that Argentina supports the development of supply reduction programs with drug-related crime prevention initiatives that address social and economic risk factors, which include the participation from civil society and other social stakeholders.

Objective 10

Design, implement or strengthen long-term alternative development programs, including rural and urban alternatives, comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs, and, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, in accordance with the policies, laws and needs of each country, as appropriate, while respecting human rights.

CICAD notes that Argentina has not designed or implemented comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programs or preventive alternative development as part of the

strategies to control and reduce illicit crops, therefore the priority actions of this objective are not applicable.

Objective 11

Design and implement plans and/or programs to mitigate and reduce the impact of illicit crops and drug production on the environment, in cooperation with local communities and national policies of member states.

CICAD notes that Argentina has not carried out, during the evaluation period (2019-2022), research or studies to determine the characteristics and extent of the environmental impact caused by the illicit cultivation of crops and illicit drug production, therefore, the priority actions of this objective are not applicable.

Objective 12

Address the effects of small-scale drug trafficking on public health, the economy, social cohesion, and citizen security.

CICAD notes that Argentina has developed and implemented approaches for controlling micro-trafficking and related crimes, that take into account effects on public health, the economy, social cohesion, and citizen security. However, CICAD observes that the country does not promote the interagency exchange of information on the effects of small-scale drug trafficking in the health, social, economic, and security sectors. Moreover, CICAD notes that Argentina has strategies to prevent the exploitation of at-risk populations affected by drug trafficking networks, at the national and international level.



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